HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Patent Application of:

Docket No.:

42390.P7987

Lynice S. SPANGLER et al.

Serial No.: 09/541,390

Group Art Unit: 2155

Filed:

March 31, 2000

Examiner: Laing Che A. Wang

For:

TECHNIQUES OF UTILIZING ACTUALLY UNUSED BANDWIDTH

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37 (a)

Sir:

Appellants have filed a timely Notice of Appeal from the Final Office Action, on October 8, 2004. A single copy of this brief is provided pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 41.37(a).

If additional extensions of time are necessary, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including any additional fees for filing of the Appeal Brief) are hereby authorized to be charged, or overpayment credited, to Intel Corporation's Deposit Account 50-0221.

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is Intel Corporation, assignee of the entire interest in the above-identified application.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

The subject matter of the present application was <u>previously appealed in Appeal</u>

Brief filed November 13, 2003. In response that that Appeal Brief, the Examiner

Reopened Prosecution on the merits in an Office Action mailed on January 16, 2004.

This is thus the second time this application as been brought to the Board. The Board has however never rendered a decision.

The above notwithstanding, the Appellants, their legal representatives and the Assignee are not currently aware of any pending appeal that may directly affect or be indirectly affected by or have some bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

Attached hereto is a Related Proceedings Appendix showing no related appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19-20 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19-20 are currently rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19-20 are the subject of this appeal.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, and 21-24 have been cancelled.

No claims have been withdrawn or allowed. The claims in issue are attached in the "Claims Appendix" attached herewith.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All prior amendments to the application have been entered.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Briefly, embodiments of the present invention relate to a method and apparatus for maximizing bandwidth usage. A determination is made whether information scheduled to be broadcast is utilizing all bandwidth previous allocated to broadcasting the information, and if not, additional information is broadcast using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth.

As shown for Example in Figure 2, and explained on pages 3 and 4 of the application if the management system 8 determines 100 that the total bandwidth available to it is being used, the management system 8 waits 105 for a specified period before again determining, whether the total bandwidth continues to be used. The management system 8 cycles through repeated determinations until a portion of the total bandwidth becomes available for another use.

If bandwidth becomes available, the management system 8 determines 110 whether the available bandwidth is allocated or unallocated. Figure 3, which shows an exemplary schedule of allocated events, illustrates the distinction between allocated and unallocated bandwidth types. In Figure 2, various events appear as rectangular blocks. In this simplified case, each program occupies a fixed amount of bandwidth for a given length of time. For instance, Program 2, is an

event that has been scheduled or guaranteed to occupy 2Mbps from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Thus, Program 2 has been allocated 2Mbps of bandwidth for a duration of 2 hours. Located to the upper right of the Program 2 rectangle lies a block denoted Opportunistic Bandwidth. Between 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM no events have been scheduled to occupy the bandwidth between 10 Mbps and 12 Mbps.

Returning to Figure 2, if management system 8 determines that there is unallocated bandwidth in the bandwidth pipe, it chooses 115 opportunistic content that is able to fit into the unoccupied bandwidth for the proper duration, and delivers it to the bandwidth pipe 60 for broadcasting.

Independent Claim 1

The invention recited by claim 1 is directed to a method comprising:

determining in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast digitally, is actually utilizing all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information [page 4, lines 24 et seq.];

if not, broadcasting additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth [page 5, lines 1-5 where "additional bandwidth" is referred to a "opportunistic bandwidth; Figure 2, item 115];

limiting the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the total available bandwidth [page 5, lines 14-15; Figure 2, item 130],

wherein said broadcasting of a portion of the additional information is stopped when the preset percentage is reached [page 6, line 5; Figure 2, item 140].

Independent Claim 8

Independent claim 8 recites a digital communication system [Figure 4] comprising:

an automated management system that controls scheduling of digital broadcasts [Figure 4, system items 8, 10, 20, 30, and 40, page 6, lines 19 et seq.] and is configured to determine in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast actually utilizes all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information [page 4, lines 24 et seq.], and if not, to broadcast additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth [page 5, lines 1-5 where "additional bandwidth" is referred to a "opportunistic bandwidth; Figure 2, item 115],

wherein the automated management system is configured to limit the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the total available bandwidth [page 5, lines 14-15; Figure 2, item 130],

wherein the automated management system is configured to stop the broadcast of a portion of the additional information when the preset percentage is reached [page 6, line 5; Figure 2, item 140].

Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 is a "Beauregard" claim similar to claim 1 recited above.

Claim 15 recites: An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores

computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to [page 15, lines 12
23]:

determine in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast over a digital network is actually utilizing all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information [page 4, lines 24 et seq.];

if not, broadcast additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth [page 5, lines 1-5 where "additional bandwidth" is referred to a "opportunistic bandwidth; Figure 2, item 115];

limit the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the available bandwidth [page 5, lines 14-15; Figure 2, item 130]; and

stop broadcasting a portion of additional information when the preset percentage is reached [page 6, line 5; Figure 2, item 140].

GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The final Office Action dated May 13, 2004 set forth two separate grounds of rejection, the first based on Aras in view of Ahn, and the second ground based on Aras and Ahn, in view of Yin. In the amendment after final filed on August 2, 2004, claims in

the second ground of rejection were incorporated into the independent claims and entered. Thus, it is believed that the sole ground of rejection remaining is as follows:

1. All claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent 5, 884,037 to Aras et al. (Aras) in view of U.S. Patent 5,745,642 to Ahn, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,442,138 to Yin.

<u>ARGUMENT</u>

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19-20

Appellants appeal the rejection of all pending claims, which is based on the Examiner's position that the claimed invention is obvious in view of Aras, Ahn and Yin.

In the Advisory Action dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner succinctly restated his rejection argument as:

"In this case, Aras has taught determining whether information is fully utilized as broadcasting additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth... and Ahn has suggested the determination could be made in real time..., it would allow Aras to fully utilize the communication rate of network as suggested by Ahn..., and Yin is showing the bandwidth could be a indicated as a percentage".

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As a matter of law, the prior art rejections are in error and are made through the Examiner's impermissible use of hindsight gained by knowledge of Appellant's invention. Indeed, as discussed below, the rejections are made through a misapplication of the law. Further, as a matter of fact, the Examiner's analysis of the references with regard to the claimed invention is fatally flawed and erroneous for the reasons given below.

A. The Prior Art

U.S. Patent 5,884,037 to Aras:

Aras appears to be directed to a reservation bandwidth system for allocation of network resources using an autoregressive integrated moving average method. The bandwidth predicting algorithm utilizes an autoregressive integrated moving average trend analysis to <u>forecast future values of bandwidth</u> capacity at a link or system level used by elements that do not conform to a reservation policy. The bandwidth <u>predictor</u> may utilize a utility that analyzes the bandwidth utilization trend over a previous period of time and generates appropriate seasonal coefficients to be used by the predictor algorithm.

As stated in the last lines of column 2 through the top of column 3, "To improve bandwidth management, the present invention uses seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average ("ARIMA") trend analysis to enhance reservation-based management systems. Seasonal ARIMA models provide a flexible means of forecasting future values of a variable based solely on the periodicity of the past occurrences. The periodic version

of the ARIMA model is used because established networks generally have utilization curves that demonstrate strong seasonal tendencies. The present invention includes the following components: a static model generation utility ("SMGU") and a non-conforming bandwidth predictor ("NCBP").

The SMGU is an off-line utility that analyzes the bandwidth utilization trend over the previous period of time and generates the appropriate seasonal ARIMA coefficients to be used by the bandwidth predictor" (emphasis added).

Thus, Aras appears to be concerned with ways to <u>forecast or predict future</u> bandwidth availability based on current and past trends.

U.S. Patent 5,745,642 to Ahn:

The Examiner has additionally relied on Ahn in combination with Aras. Ahn is used for teaching determining in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast digitally is actually utilizing all bandwidth.

Ahn appears to be directed to a system to interleave "resource data" into unused bandwidth of a digital movie. However, Ahn does not determine in real time "whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time" (as claimed) is using all of it allocated bandwidth. The claimed phrase "fixed amount... for a fixed length of time" refers to scheduling [see page 4, line 7 of application]. The

scheduled information or programming is clearly illustrated in **Figure 3** of the application.

In contrast, Ahn merely looks at each frame of information to determine if room is left over to add additional data. [See for example Ahn's abstract, line 10, wherein it states "the present invention involves interleaving resource data that is not used in the current frame"].

This is unrelated to Appellant's claimed invention

U.S. Patent 6,442,138 to Yin:

The Examiner has acknowledged that Aras and Ahn do not teach that a stop limit is a preset percentage of available bandwidth and has therefore relied on Yin for this feature. In particular, the Examiner argues that Yin teaches "the use of percentage to indicate the total bandwidth allocated, and the total bandwidth available (column 6, lines 38-44)".

Yin is directed to a method and apparatus for controlling admission of connection requests. In brief, a system controls the admission of a connection request based on available resources. The received connection request specifies a particular class of service. The system then determines the allocated bandwidth for the specified class of service. Available resources for the specified class of service are determined based on measured traffic flow and the allocated bandwidth associated with the specified class of service. The connection request is accepted if the available resources are capable of supporting the requested connection.

With regard to the examiner's reliance of Yin to teach a "percentage", column 6, lines 38-44 merely states that various calculations may be used to for each class of service to determine whether or not to accept or reject a connection request. One of the parameters in the calculation may be "B(i)" which is represented a percentage of total bandwidth available to all service classes.

Other than using the word "percentage" Yin is unrelated to Appellant's claimed "limit the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the available bandwidth".

A. The combination of Ahn, Aras, and Yin does not show prima facie obviousness:

Independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 8 and 15 recite "limiting the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the total available bandwidth" and "broadcasting of a portion of the additional information is stopped when the preset percentage is reached". It is respectfully submitted that this is not shown by the combination of Aras, Ahn, and Yin as set forth by the Examiner.

With regard to Aras, Applicant previously successfully argued, that Aras appears to be concerned with ways to forecast or predict future bandwidth availability based on current and past trends. Thus, Aras teaches nothing about determining actual bandwidth utilization nor does Aras teach or suggest "broadcasting additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth" as claimed.

The Examiner has had to additionally rely on Ahn in combination with Aras for teaching determining in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast digitally is actually utilizing all bandwidth. However, as noted above, filling an unfilled frame with interleaved data is not analogous to determining in real time "whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time" is using its scheduled bandwidth allocation as done by the present invention.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Aras and Ahn do not teach that a stop limit is a preset percentage of available bandwidth and has therefore relied on Yin for this feature. In particular, the Examiner argues that Yin teaches "the use of percentage to indicate the total bandwidth allocated, and the total bandwidth available (column 6, lines 38-44)".

However, Yin, at column 6, lines 38-44 simply uses the phrase "percentage of total bandwidth". If the Board reads further, this refers "percentage of total bandwidth of existing connections available to all service classes". Again, this has nothing to do with Appellant's claimed invention.

In short, Ahn does not appear to teach limiting the amount of additional information broadcast to a percentage of available bandwidth. Aras, while perhaps filling unused frames, does not teach or suggest "determine in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast actually utilizes all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information" as claimed. Finally, Yin mentions bandwidths and percentages, but does not remotely suggest that the bandwidth percentage may be to limit additional information that may be broadcast and

certainly does not teach or suggest <u>stopping</u> the broadcast of additional information if this limit is exceeded as recited in the independent claims.

It is incumbent upon the Examiner to establish a factual basis to support the legal conclusion of obviousness. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). This objective can only be established by an objective teaching in the prior art or by cogent reasoning that the knowledge is available to one of ordinary skill in the art. In re Lalu, 747 F.2d 703, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Here there is none. Indeed, in the case at hand, the Examiner has failed to disregard what he has been taught by the present invention and has failed to cast his mind back to the time that the invention was made to determine what would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art who had available only the references and the then-accepted wisdom in the art. Assuming arguendo that Aras could be interpreted in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the rejection would still be insufficient since as a matter of fact Aras, Ahn, and Yin fail to teach the above highlighted claim recitations.

The PTO has the initial burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See, <u>In re Piasecki</u>, 223 USPQ 785, 788; <u>In re Fine</u>, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The PTO can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references. <u>In re Lalu</u>, supra; see also, <u>Ashland Oil</u>, <u>Inc. V. Delta Resins & Refractories</u>, Inc., 776 F.2d 281, 297 n.24, 227 USPQ 657, 667 n.24 (Fed. Cir. 1985); <u>ACS Hosp. Sys., Inc. v.</u>

Monteviore Hosp., 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Here, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to show prima facie obviousness.

As such, it is respectfully requested that the Board reverse the Examiner and allow all claims.

CONCLUSION

In summary, what the Examiner has done is attempted to construct the claimed invention from the referenced patents with no independent teaching for the construction he proposes. Appellants have solved a fundamental problem in the area of bandwidth management. Appellant's invention is simply not suggested by the prior art and, therefore, Appellants are entitled to protection sought by the rejected claims.

Appellants thus respectfully submit that the rejections of the claims are in error and that reversal is warranted in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kevin A. Reif/

Kevin A. Reif Reg. No. 36,381

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mall with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

DESCRAFE 2004

Date of Deposit

DEBORAN L. Highlan

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

12-6-04

CLAIMS APPENDIX

A copy of the claims involved in the appeal is provided below.

1 (Previously Amended). A method comprising:

determining in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast digitally is actually utilizing all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information;

if not, broadcasting additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth;

limiting the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the total available bandwidth,

wherein said broadcasting of a portion of the additional information is stopped when the preset percentage is reached.

- 2. (Cancelled).
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 including determining in real-time whether additional information can be broadcast over a portion of the previously allocated bandwidth that is actually unused.
- 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said broadcasting the portion of the additional information to be stopped is selected based upon at least one of content provider, bandwidth range and sequence of content provision.

- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including determining in real-time whether there is any unallocated bandwidth; and, if there is unallocated bandwidth with respect to a particular timeframe, broadcasting supplementary information to occupy at least a portion of the unallocated bandwidth during the particular timeframe.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 including determining in advance of the particular timeframe whether the supplementary information can be broadcast over the unallocated bandwidth.
- 8. (Previously Amended) A digital communication system comprising:

an automated management system that controls scheduling of digital broadcasts, and is configured to determine in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast actually utilizes all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information, and if not, to broadcast additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth,

wherein the automated management system is configured to limit the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the total available bandwidth,

wherein the automated management system is configured to stop the broadcast of a portion of the additional information when the preset percentage is reached.

- 9. (Cancelled).
- 10. (Original) The digital communication system of claim 8 wherein the automated management system is configured to determine whether additional information can be broadcast over a portion of the previously allocated bandwidth that is actually unused.
- 11 (Cancelled).
- 12. (Previously Amended) The digital communication system of claim 8 wherein the system is configured to select the portion of the additional information to be stopped based on at least one of content provider, bandwidth range, and sequence of content provision.
- 13. (Original) The digital communication system of claim 8 wherein the automated management system is configured to determine whether there is any unallocated bandwidth; and, if there is unallocated bandwidth with respect to a particular timeframe, the system is configured to broadcast supplementary information to occupy at least a portion of the unallocated bandwidth during the particular timeframe.

14. (Original) The digital communication system of claim 13 wherein the automated management system is configured to determine in advance of the particular timeframe whether the supplementary information can be broadcast over the unallocated bandwidth.

15. (Previously Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

determine in real time whether information guaranteed a fixed amount of bandwidth for a fixed length of time broadcast over a digital network is actually utilizing all bandwidth previously allocated to broadcasting the information;

if not, broadcast additional information using an unused portion of the previously allocated bandwidth;

limit the amount of additional information to a preset percentage of the available bandwidth; and

stop broadcasting a portion of additional information when the preset percentage is reached.

16 (Cancelled).

17. (Original) The article of claim 15 which further stores instructions that cause the computer system to determine whether additional information can be broadcast over a

portion of the previously allocated bandwidth that is actually unused.

18 (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 15 which further stores instructions

that cause a computer to stop broadcasting a portion of the additional information and

wherein the portion of the additional information is selected based on at least one of

content provider, bandwidth range and sequence of content provision.

20. (Original) The article of claim 15 which further stores instructions that cause a

computer to determine in real-time whether there is any unallocated bandwidth; and, if

there is unallocated bandwidth with respect to a particular timeframe, broadcasting

supplementary information to occupy at least a portion of the unallocated bandwidth

during the particular timeframe.

21-24. (Cancelled).

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

This section lists evidence submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§1.130, 1.131, or 1.132, or any other evidence entered by the Examiner and relied upon by Appellant in this appeal, and provides for each piece of evidence a brief statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered by the Examiner. Copies of each piece of evidence are provided as required by 35 U.S.C. §41.37(c)(ix).

NO.	EVIDENCE	BRIEF STATEMENT SETTING FORTH WHERE IN THE RECORD THE EVIDENCE WAS ENTERED BY THE EXAMINER
1	N/A	N/A

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §41.37(c)(x), copies of the following decisions rendered by a court of the Board in any proceeding identified above under 35 U.S.C. §41.37(c)(1)(ii) are enclosed herewith.

NO.	TYPE OF PROCEEDING	REFERENCE NO.	DATE
1	N/A	N/A	N/A

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application No.	09/541,390
Filing Date	March 31, 2000
First Named Inventor	Lynice S. Spangler
Art Unit	2155
Examiner Name	Liang Che A. Wang
Attorney Docket Number	42390P7987

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)						
Fee Transmittal Form	Drawing(s)	After Allowance Communication to Group				
Fee Attached	Licensing-related Papers	Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences				
Amendment / Response	Petition	Appeal Communication to Group				
After Final Affidavits/declaration(s	Petition to Convert a Provisional Application	Proprietary Information				
Extension of Time Request	Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	Status Letter				
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Information Disclosure Staten	nent Request for Refund	- Appeal Brief (21 pgs) - Check for \$500.00				
PTO/SB/08	CD, Number of CD(s)	- Return Receipt Postcard				
Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)						
Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application	Remarks					
Basic Filing Fee Declaration/POA						
Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53						
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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2004. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

(\$) 500.00

Complete if Known				
Application Number	09/541,390			
Filing Date	March 31, 2000			
First Named Inventor	Lynice S. Spangler	-		
Examiner Name	Liang Che A. Wang			
Art Unit	2155			
Attorney Docket No.	42390P7987			

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			(4)		1501	1.370	2501	685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)		
2. EXTR	A CLAIM FE	EES _{Extra}	Fee from		1502	490	2502	245	Design issue fee		
Total Claims		Claims	below	Fee Paid	1503	660	2503	330	Plant issue fee		
Independent	14 - 24		18.00	\$0.00	1460	130	2460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner		
Claims	<u>3</u> · 5*	= 0 x	88.00 =	\$0.00	1807	50	1807	50	Prosessing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)		
Multiple Dependen					1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt		
Large Entity	Small Entity				8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)		
Fee Fee Code (\$)	Fee Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description			1809	790	1809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection		
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess	of 20		1009	100	1009	333	(37 CFR § 1.129(a))		
1201 88	2201 44	Independent clair	ns in excess of 3		1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be		
1203 300	2203 150	Multiple Depende	nt claim, if not paid						examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))		
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Name (Print/Type)	Paul A. Mendonsa	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,879	Telephone	(503) 439-8778
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